Stipends for ASHA workers

1321. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision to pay a stipend of Rs. 500/- in addition to incentives to ASHA workers has been implemented;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how many ASHAs have been trained and provided with the requisite kits?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Mission Steering Group (MSG) of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), in its fourth meeting on 28th January 2009 had approved, in principle, the payment of monthly honorarium of Rs.500 to ASHA along with performance incentives subject to approval by the Ministry of Finance. In response to a reference, the Ministry of Finance did not support the proposal and pointed out that it runs contrary to the approach of performance linked remuneration adopted by the department earlier and the rationale for proposed change in policy is not justified. Hence the ASHA continue to receive only performance linked incentives as per the approved Framework for Implementation of NRHM.

(c) As per the state reports, 6.77 lakh ASHA have been trained in first module and 4.66 lakh ASHA have been provided with drug kits.

Vans for mobile hospitals

†1322. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by Government for health services in rural, tribal and backward areas;

(b) the details of vans provided by Government for mobile hospitals Statewise; and

(c) the reasons for not providing vans to Uttar Pradesh for mobile hospitals till date?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The health services in rural areas are provided through a network of 146036 SCs, 23458 PHCs and 4276 CHCs across the nation as on March, 2008.

(b) With the objective to take healthcare to the door step of the public in the rural areas, especially in under-served areas, Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) are funded un National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). The number of districts where MMUs are working is given in the Statement. (*See* below).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.